

Lotus Blossom

by HiddenFae

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Summary: Spirits grow restless, a teacher schemes from the shadows, a goddess tries to prevent the inevitable, and a student tries to be herself. Trans*PC for Jade Empire, will contain abuse (physical and verbal) and triggers.

Lotus Blossom

**AN: Nothing much to put here, just wanted to say I was inspired by elusivetruth's story, Aqun-Athlok. It's amazing and it should be read. I doubt this will get any views, but if it does I would like to hear from you guys. Thank you, and be sure to check out elusivetruth's profile for other great stories.**

**My first fic, so please be kind!**

My name is Xiaolian, which means 'little lotus' and lends itself to my title of Lotus Blossom. Practically everyone in the Jade Empire has one, and usually picked by a parent or master until you are old enough. I never knew my parents, but I assume they were well respected. I do have my Master Li, who raised me from a baby and brought me here to learn martial arts...and to protect me.

I don't have many...enemies just seems too strong of a word, yet I don't believe they hate me. Gao the Lesser and Student Lin, they just don't understand why I am the way I am, yet they always give me trouble. Mostly everyone else simply lets me be. Outside the school gate, however, is a different story. Besides Gujin and the merchant (who I buy my herbs from), everyone openly glares at me, and I hear them whispering insults behind my back. All of them too afraid to say it to my face since I am the senior student...yet they don't know I would never willingly harm anyone unless they wish to start a confrontation.

On a side note, who knew Master Li's special herbal tea and proper chi control could have such an effect on the human body? Every day I thank my master for teaching me those things. He never tells me he

approves, but that smile, the one you give a small child who is doing well, is all the support I need.

"Every time i fight you i get bruises in places I never expected." The young man said before me as he rubs his arms, both of us in the sparring arena. "I swear, Xiaolian, I will be beat you one of the days."

I couldn't help but to laugh. It wasn't mean or disrespectful, I hope Jing Woo understands, but he just can't touch me. Sure enough he begins to laugh as well. "Maybe one day, but right now you strike with all the grace of a drunken, wounded ox." I laugh as I wipe dirt off of my purple blouse that shows my midriff (with a booby window as Dawnstar calls it) before looking at him with a kind smile. "But perhaps you would enjoy another round?"

Jing Woo nods and we both enter our stances. Woo's stance is bouncy, to say the least. He keeps bobbing up and down on the balls of his feet, ready to bring a leg up. The Legendary Strike, a style developed for quick and powerful leg strikes, one of the many styles taught by Master Li.

I enter my preferred style on instinct. My left leg in front of my body, my right slightly bent under me. My left arm extended, the fist slightly balled as my palm points down with my right held close to my chest. I can almost feel my chi forming the three claws on each hand, the staple of my style. I smirk. The Leaping Tiger always puts on a good show.

Jing Woo charges, spinning on his left foot as his right makes a complete circle. The built up momentum is enough to send anyone back if they weren't prepared. Too bad I was.

My legs act as coiled springs and Woo's attack hits nothing but air. I manage a stylized flip in mid jump, my silk sash around my hips blowing in the breeze. The landing was soft, and I crouch low to keep my knees from locking down before spinning. My attack is precise, my left fist comes up, barely missing Jing Woo as three slash mark rip into his tunic. I press forward, my speed and momentum building with each swing.

Woo uses his hands to deflect my blows, causing minor cuts along his arms where my chi claws scratch him. I go to finish this before his left hand grips my right wrist. Something new? I look down to see his left leg rise up and lunge out at me. I spin to my right, his grip still firm as I raise my leg up, expertly landing it across his chest. His grip loosens before he lets go, and then he has a clean opening.

A dull pain enters my chest, just above my breasts, before we back away. I see his right arm stiffened with his palm exposed. "Someone's been training with Smiling Mountain." I giggle as the boy smile and blushes as I enter another stance. My arms rise leveled with my shoulders as my palms and fingers point to the earth.

I charge this time. A forward back hand shoved into his chest and a quick turn as his palm sails past me. A right backhand and Woo becomes even slower. I focus and pour chi into my hands as a beam of lights erupt from within. Jing Woo takes a step back, sluggish. My chi claws gather again as I lash out, forcing him against the rings

fence.

I raise both hands for the finishing blow, but I stop. Woo sits on the ground, holding his hands up in surrender. "See, closer with each defeat." He says smiling. "I only need a new tunic this time."

I giggle, holding my hand to my mouth to cover the smile before helping him to his feet. "You almost had me." I turn to open the gate, waiting for him to catch up after dusting off his rear.

"Oh, yes, I almost forgot. Master Li wishes to speak with you." I instantly snap to, thinking I had offended my master who was watching our spar before disappearing. "He said there was no need to rush." I calm down, knowing he wanted to speak of something important, but I figured it could wait until it was time for my herbal tea.

"Thank-"

"Move it, ladyboy. Some of us would actually like to train!" I knew that gruff voice who acted like he was better than anyone, and I hated it. "Go talk to your 'Master' Li so the rest of us can receive some education." Usually because it was accompanied by-

"Do the rest of a favor, and to go work at the brothel." Yeah, she was here to. "It's the only place where 'girls' like you belong."

Goa and Lin. Both of them here for their own reasons, yet both get a kick out of tormenting me. The two hate each other, only acting civil because they both despise me. Luckily they aren't so quick to attack. I had to fight them off numerous times, walking away with a couple bruises. There is a silver lining though, and I have gotten use to fighting multiple people thanks to them. I take everything they send my way in stride...even if I do occasionally get the urge to see if my Leaping Tiger style can be used to flay people alive.

Woo gives me the 'are you really going to take that' look. He's right, in a way. Sometimes people like those two need some sense beaten into their skulls, but that's not the way I work. So I just shake my head and shrug before running off.

"Greetings, Smiling Mountain!" I yell to one of my teachers with a wave as he smiles, part of namesake. No one here knows his true name, but he has always been kind to the students. I mean, what else would you call a mountain of a man who constantly smiles?

So far today has been going well, except for Gao and Lin. I think back on my life, remembering the time before my master brought me here. It was alright, but the constant moving was a hassle. I remember he would carry me when I was tired from walking. Then there was that night, the night I told him. He had a sad smile as his eyes glazed over. Had he lost someone? He would never say.

My feet had carried me to his house while I was lost in thought. I smiled as I entered and noticed Master Li sitting at his table, a shogi board in front of him. "Your tea will get cold if you do not hurry, my student." He says without opening a single eye.

"Sorry, Master Li." I quickly take my seat and sip on it, thankful

that the honey used to sweeten it doesn't negate the effects.

"I watched your spar with Jing Woo with great pride." I see the ghost smile again as he speaks. "He will surely surpass your skill if you are not diligent."

"He is a very gifted student, master, unlike two others." So I had a vindictive side, could you blame after meeting those two?

"Yes, I realize." I look at my Master, this couldn't be what he wanted to see me for. "Have you given any thought to your destiny?"

And we're back on this subject. I love the old man like a father, but he has been so cryptic as I grew up, alluding to some great destiny. "I do not know, master. Perhaps I will remain here and train others, as you have." This has nothing to do with the fact that everyone outside of the school walls pretty much despises or denies my existence.

Okay...maybe it does a little.

"While a humbling and worthy ambition, I know you were meant for greater things." The old man took a sip of wine, trying to ease his mind as he wondered where to take our conversation. "You see, you are an-

"Master! Master Li!" I turn my head to the door, thankful I had finished my tea as a student ran through the door.

"What is this interruption? This had better be important!" Oh thank the gods for Si Pat, I didn't want to hear about my destiny right now. I zone out as the student, Si Pat, talks with our teacher. The boy has only just arrived here, and he is eager to please the teachers. Too bad he does poorly in martial and weapons training, but I can feel the chi rolling off of his body. He should spend more time with Scholar Mai and learn the magic and transformation styles.

I'm pulled out of my musings when I hear something about bandits being spotted and Kia Min, one of the only girls who are openly friendly with me instead of just being respectful (the only other being Dawn Star), being injured when they launched cannon fire on the shore. My eyes widen and I pick myself up gracefully.

"Master-

"Go find Dawn Star and proceed to Gujin the Weapons Master, and pick a weapon. Then try to keep the bandits from ransacking the village." His tone is calm, calculating. It's as if he has planned on this for some time.

My head nods with its own will as I sprint out the door, Si Pat right behind me. We make it to Dawn Star's garden with the young women wearing a dress of red silk, flashy yet functional for a martial artist. The student beside rushes on to the gate as I slow and see her...talking to Gao the Lesser. I use that term loosely seeing as he is talking while leaning on a tree to appear indifferent and cool as Dawn Star ignores him.

"Greetings Dawn Star, I do hope I am interrupting?" My voice is even

and cool, like a whisper, and a friendly smile on my lips as I hear the Lesser scoff.

"You step beyond your station, ladyboy, Dawn Star and I were discussing her future." I turn to look at Gao, my face going from a sweet smile with nothing to hide, to hiding a fury deep within. I'm sure Master Li won't mind one less student.

"Thank you Gao, but I will pick my own poison." Dawn Star snaps and waves her arm, as if dismissing him. The junior scoffs again and walks off. "Thank you, Xiaolian, I couldn't take much more. He is Gao the Lesser in every sense of the word."

"You know me, Dawn, I don't like seeing the few true friends I have being...unhappy." I smile, sure she may be my friend, but sometimes I feel it's only because we are both outcasts. Dawn Star due to seeing Spirits, and me...because I was once...it doesn't matter, that's not me anymore.

"Always jumping down to the rescue, just like you. If I had your level of training them I might actually get Gao to take a hint." She smiles and I instantly with.

"You know I don't like being put on a pedestal." Like? True down right hate it, I don't think I'm better than anyone else, and I hate when people try to say I am. I don't want to be better, I just want to be me, Xiaolian. "Master Li wants use to see Gujin and see what's going on with the bandits."

"Bandits? Really?!" Okay, I thought she knew about them already, oh well.

"Yes, and I have a bad feeling about this..." I start to get fidgety, like something is about to happen that turns my life on its head. Then I see Dawn Star, a look of terror on her face. "What?"

"I hate your bad feelings." She says and grabs me by the arm as we start running for the gates. "They tend to be right! Remember when the fields burned? You said you could feel the lightning! Then before that there was the flood that submerged half the village!"

I hate how she's always right.

Like I said, please be kind when reviewing as it is my first time writing a fic._

End
file.